

White's Pond Study Committee

Minutes of March 7, 2011 Meeting

Committee members in attendance: Dick Downey, Ellen Duggan, Peter Reed, Jim Fulton, Jason Kreil, Paul Boothroyd, Eugene Radner, Herb Symes

Also in attendance: Jerry Flood Supt. of DPW, Walter Sokolowski and Tom Sheridan former Superintendents of the DPW.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dick Downey

Motion made by Jason Kriel and seconded by Paul Boothroyd to accept the minutes of the February 28, 2011 WPSC meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Hand outs were made available by Paul Boothroyd entitled; Judgment On The Declaration of Taking (April 7, 1943), Report of Water Commissioners (Dec. 31, 1942), Town of Hudson Assessors Map #37, Property Map of Stow showing government land.

Dick Downey distributed a copy of his letter to the Beacon Villager.

The next segment of the meeting was a presentation and discussion with former DPW superintendents Walter Sokolowski and Tom Sheridan along with current DPW superintendent Jerry Flood:

The discussion began with the topic of an existing well at Puffers Pond.

Tom Sheridan said this was never our well and belonged to FEMA. In 1982, FEMA extended with a 12" pipe. Tom said that he wouldn't put too much effort into this well as it was not a very good source and especially with the good possibility of permitting issues.

Walter Sokolowski said that this well is still intact and with the proximity to Well #4 it could be possible to bring the water to the treatment plant behind the Fowler School. Could we ever use it? Who knows?

Ellen Duggan asked how many test wells has the town dug ? How many production wells do we have? Tom replied that we have drilled 200 test wells. Walter replied that we currently have 7 production wells. We have a satellite well at Rockland Ave. with 400,000 gal per/day possible. We have a 4th well at Rockland which is a 4" monitoring well which could possibly be developed into an 8" production well. This well could possibly produce 280 gallons per minute or 403,000 gallons per day.

Ellen Duggan expressed a concern of putting all our eggs in one basket as it pertained to developing more wells. Walter responded that he agreed and that it would be good to have a nice mix.

Tom Sheridan then presented some back round history regarding White's Pond. He said that originally there was a gatehouse at White's Pond which was a gravity feed to the original reservoir atop Summer Hill in Maynard.

Tom displayed a map of the water pipeline crossing the government land. In 1941 a new asbestos/cement line was installed along White Pond road on the government land to Tuttle Hill (private easement). He estimated that the pump station at White's Pond produced about 700,000 gallon per day. He further stated that the intake pipe at the pond should have been set lower, especially after experiencing some drought periods in the 1950's and 1960's.

In 1961 Maynard and Stow created a joint committee to study ground water wells. In 1964 located an Army well 3,000 feet from White's Pond, which was pumped for a while but had a lot of problems with clogging.

In the late 1960's more water searching took place which was the beginning of the Quirk wells at Old Marlboro Road. In 1972 and 1973 we developed two wells which were 45 feet deep. Then new rules came down regarding surface water and turbidity issues.

In 1978 – 1980 the Mill in Maynard changed their cooling system thus significantly reducing daily water consumption rates which were noted in reports of usage from 1983 through 1986.

Walter Sokolowski interjected at this point that the water levels in the Summer Hill tank should never drop below 9 feet.

Around 1982, Well #3 behind the Green Meadow School developed manganese problems along with problems caused by water reversals.

The water line across the government land was a 10" pipe used until 1992

Walter interjected that officials did have some foresight and from 1971-1972 a 16" pipe was installed from the Summer Hill tank down Summer Street to Florida Road. Also, a 16" main was installed up Parker Street to the Digital facility. Eventually that main was extended further up Parker Street to Carriage Lane.

Walter said that a 16" water line should be installed from White's Pond across the Government land to Maynard.

Tom Sheridan said that White's Pond could be a sole source of water for Maynard at times.

Jim Fulton asked if we could have an inventory of where asbestos/cement water lines are located? Jerry, Tom and Walter said that information could be provided.

Dick Downey asked Walter what his perspective was regarding working with U.S. Fish and Game? Walter replied, that he thought they would be okay if we can show them a mutual benefit with replacing the water line.

Dick asked if there were any down sides to White's Pond ?

Tom Sheridan replied that the down side is that we haven't been using it. Also, White's Pond water quality would far exceed the quality of the water coming from our existing wells.

Eugene Radner said the cost to put White's Pond on line could be a negative. So how do you sell it to the taxpayers ?

Tom suggested contracting to sell water to neighboring towns could be one way of selling it to the tax payers. As long as there were protections for the town of Maynard's water needs.

Walter suggested that a filtration plant located at White's Pond would offer the possibility of regional water sales, which could also convince tax payers of the value.

Dick Downey talked about a 100 year horizon regarding water needs. These wells could expire? What is the risk?

Walter said that a pipeline and pumping station to Maynard with the filtration plant located in Maynard would end the regional water possibility.

Tom said, it is his opinion that everything (pump station and filtration plant) should be located at White's Pond.

Dick asked if Tom and Walter could develop a list of all options regarding water?

Tom and Walter said they would come up with a list of all options.

Herb Symes asked if we can afford "not" to get White's Pond back up and running?

Dick responded that we need to look at all options.

Walter said the optimal answer is to have both the wells and White's Pond available for our use.

Tom said we need to consider the possible loss of White's Pond if we do not use it. We need to analyze existing conditions, long term use and the wells have to be rated.

Walter said the well behind Fowler School has been problematic. Maynard is one of only three towns with bedrock wells. Maynard's is probably the best.

Tom mentioned the possibility of gravel packed wells at White's Pond.

A map was displayed showing all test wells ever drilled.

Walter said the most reliable wells that we have, are at Rockland Ave.

Tom remarked that he never thought that the Rockland Ave. wells would still be producing water today.

Jim Fulton stated that Marlboro Road well #2 has been out of service for two years due to poor color.

Peter Reed asked about effluent. When water is treated it creates effluent and would have to be treated.

There was some discussion of sending the effluent across the old pipeline on the Government land to Maynard to be treated. An alternative would be to treat it at White's Pond.

Walter stated that if he were still superintendent of the DPW, he would love to see White's Pond brought into service in conjunction with the existing wells.

This phase of the meeting ended. Walter and Tom were thanked for their expertise and invited to come back to future meetings.

Review of Action Items from 2-28-11 Meeting

Action Item #1 - research at registry of deeds completed by Paul Boothroyd.

Action Item #2 - Jerry Flood continuing to gather info regarding Stow exploratory wells.

Action Item #3 - Jerry Flood to contact FEMA regarding Puffer Pond well.

Action Item #4 - contact of WAVM completed by Ellen Dugan.

Action Item #5 - Contact of Beacon Villager completed by Dick Downey.

Action Item #6 - contact of Mike Sullivan regarding legal issues. Dick has submitted request to Mike Sullivan.

Action Item #7 - Jerry Flood obtained copy of the legislative act. Task completed.

Jim Fulton remarked that if the water pipe running across the Government land does not have a registered easement, we should have the option to create the easement.

Dick Downey asked Jerry if we have received a Gantt chart from Woodard & Curran ?
Jerry replied not yet.

* ACTION ITEM - Jerry Flood to obtain Gantt Chart from Woodard & Curran.

Old Business

Agenda Item 4-Ai - Ellen's posting on WAVM . In progress

Agenda Item 4-Aii - Jason's posting to the Beacon Villager. In progress.

Agenda Item 4-Aiii – Dick’s posting on the website. Web is up and running.

Agenda Item 4- Bi – Regarding meeting schedule. Meeting schedule has been added to the website.

Agenda Item 4-Biii - All committee members will e-mail Dick with a short bio for the website.

Committee received an e-mail from citizen Kate Wheeler regarding concern with asbestos/cement water pipes in Maynard. Dick Downey will contact her with a response to her concern.

Dick Downey reviewed the meeting schedule with the committee.

Ellen Duggan expressed her concern over the risk of the Rockland Ave. wells possibly drying up as a major source of our current water supply. Ellen believes that White’s Pond has a 100 year track record of being a reliable, proven source of good quality water for the town.

Jerry Flood said we have observation wells at the Rockland Ave well site that monitor the well water levels.

Peter Reed said he would like Woodard & Curran to comment on the status of the Rockland Ave. wells.

- ACTION ITEM – Jerry will ask Woodard & Curran to find USGS or Corp. of Engineers Rockland Ave. well study.

Herb Symes asked if Woodard & Curran have any current clients that have both surface water and ground water sources, so that we may be able to make comparisons regarding these two sources.

Peter Reed made a motion, seconded by Eugene Redner to adjourn this meeting. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting of WPSC – Monday March 21, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.- Municipal Building – Gianotis Room 201